



Speech by

**Mark McArdle**

**MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA**

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## CALOUNDRA

**Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—Lib) (5.12 pm): Caloundra is a city comprised of people from different backgrounds, organisations and beliefs but one thing they do have in common is a desire to achieve for their city and their families the best they can. Caloundra as such has grown into a blossoming tourism destination which has drawn people to it for well over 100 years. It is the dedication and desire of the people of Caloundra that traces the generations and has made it what it is today. People in Caloundra clearly understand that there are challenges ahead, one being how to maintain the feel of Caloundra as a destination for the family but at the same time offering a feel and atmosphere akin to a larger city. That is the challenge that faces many sea change areas, together with the real risk that an area can become over loved and suffer as a consequence.

These sea change areas need detailed planning to ensure a progressive and rolled out future. We cannot afford the mistakes of the 1970s, a number of which we are still living with today. The environment is in a more fragile state. The people who we represent in this House are more attuned to achieve what they want to achieve and are vocal in their demands that we act in their best interests.

The Sunshine Coast and Caloundra have a particular environmental interest to protect and, given the population that will flow into the area in the immediate future, this will only become more important. There are, in fact, four elements across the Sunshine Coast that will direct its and Caloundra's future growth and development, the first being the three levels of government—state, local and federal. The second is the population, which will have a major role in controlling the environmental determinations of all levels of governments. The third is the Sunshine Coast University, which will be able to provide ongoing research and mapping to assist in the development. Finally, there are business interests.

It is the latter as a cohesive body that is still of some concern. There are a number of groups on the coast that operate within a small but important sphere of interest but as yet there is no overarching body to lobby all levels of government to place money where and when it is needed. The Sunshine Coast is progressing. It is moving forward, yet there is room for improvement and room for future planning across the region. This can only occur if the commercial interests of the region work in unison. It is time for this one body to be formed. To date no such body has come forward, though there are a number of organisations which act for and on behalf of certain regions and commercial interests.

The time has now come for one body to formulate a proposal whereby they can unifiably work together with all other three tiers of government that I have mentioned to progress the future needs of the Sunshine Coast. I have no doubt that Caloundra will continue to establish itself as a lifestyle, family friendly environment. Of course, our overarching obligation is to the generations ahead. To ignore that obligation is a major disaster. Whatever we do now here today will impact upon the generations to come, and it is that impact that we have to bear in mind in our decision-making processes.